THE CUCKOO

News and Gossip of the day.

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MANAGER'S NOTICE.

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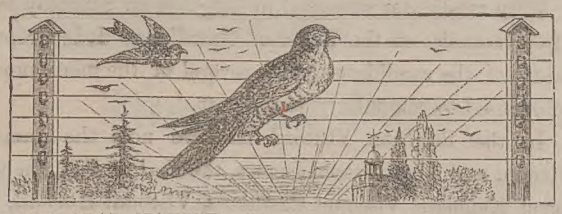


EDITORIAL NOTICE.—Wanted, for THE CUCKOO, *Correspondents at Wimbledon, Hampstead, Sydenham, and Richmond. Letters to be addressed to the Editor, 24, Great New Street, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.*

News from Abroad.

Nothing could be more terrible to any society than such disclosures among its members as the Russian conspirators are now making. Each of them confesses to crime, and with so little reservation as to make it seem that they are proud of it.

Risakoff confesses killing the Czar, and Kibaltchick with having made the bombs. Jeljaboff admits that if Risakoff had failed he had a mine ready for the Czar elsewhere, and both of the others described themselves as of the revolutionary party.

Peroffskaja, the female conspirator, won golden opinions by her defence of Hesse Helfmann, the other woman recriminated, and declaring that she had taken only a passive part in "Socialistic schemes." But looking on at a mine being dug and not telling the police is as bad, taken all round, as digging the mine.

On the whole St. Petersburg, with such a horrible Vehm Gericht in its midst, appears to be a veritable city of murder.

Russia is not going to be actively hostile to Turkey in Europe, at least, so Greece has been given to understand, second hand. But in Asia the new Czar will be as aggressive as ever, and Turkey is to suffer.

The Kurds it will be remembered were very considerably in rebellion a short while ago, and in spite of Turkey's overtures are now about to rebel again. The immediate results of the disturbances will be that Russia, "in her own defence," will have to restore quiet in Turkish Kurdistan. The contumacious leader of the insurgents, Sheikl Obidullah, is already on good terms with the Caucasian authorities.

A private leter from St. Petersburg speaks of a Socialist document having been intercepted, in which the writer "regrets" to hear rumours of the new Czar's intentions to grant a constitution, "as it would throw back for at least a century the regeneration at which Socialism aims."

Dynamite candles are a disagreeable form of chandlery introduced by an accident to the knowledge of the St. Petersburg police.

In the grey of the Easter morning yesterday the Judges swept back silently into the Court, and the crowd that had been waiting up all night to hear sentence passed upon the assassins of the Czar stood up. Death by hanging is to be the punishment of all six—but what good can six executions do in such a hot-bed of murderous crime as the City of the North?

It is not improbable that our submission to the Boers may be made still more galling by the Boers insisting on asserting their supremacy at every opportunity. They are not the kind of people to wear their triumphs modestly.

Already numerous reports of "outrages" committed by Boers upon English colonists are current in Natal, and more may be expected. As a servant the Boer is bad enough; as a master he is detestable, being neither just, nor honest, nor moral.

We are told by some correspondents that Mr. Goschen is to remain at his post until the Turco Hellenic question is settled, and by others that it will speedily be settled. My opinion is that it will not soon be settled, and I feel inclined to tell Mr. Goschen, as Mr. Scaley told Mr. Tom Tit, that he had better "inform his angel wife and lovely family as he won't sleep at home for a long time." Poor Mr. Goschen is very like Theseus in the Hades of Virgil. "Sedet æternumque sedebit." It will be remembered that Theseus sat so long in Hades, as to grow to the rock on which he was seated, so that when Hercules came to release him he was forced to leave a portion of his brother demi-god's cuticle on the rock. It is, to be hoped that when Mr. Goschen's successor arrives his Excellency will not have to go home minus his pantaloons.

The settlement of the Turco Hellenic question will plunge two parties in great misery. The war party in Greece will no longer be able to parade its absurd pretensions, and its heads of Minerva before Europe. The War party in Turkey will no longer be able to rob the Turkish army of a large part of the Revenues collected for its support.

In Constantinople a scheme has recently been formed by Mr. Foster, and other respectable and responsible men, to establish a Savings Bank. The Porte has proscribed the Scheme. It is of opinion that the Pachas alone should be entrusted with money, and certainly they do take care of it when they get hold of it. Noboby ever sees it again.

The Porte is showing its love for Baker Pacha, and his officers, and is at the same time displaying its own high sense of honour, by attempting to levy a retrospective tax of 10 per cent. on the salaries which the General and his officers have received. The unhappy officers are of Falstaff's opinion. They do no like "this paying back," as they think "it gives double trouble." But I am afraid that their remonstrances will have no effect, for the Sublime Porte, like the "port" of the brothers in Comus," is more than human."

Radical newspapers will please notice the latest absurd attempt to bolster up our immoral occupation of Cyprus. The High Commissioner has, it is said, been examining the English public school, which is a feature of the Imperial policy in that island, and has reported that the pupils display a very marked aptitude for learning "the English language."

Wretched little sycophants!

The Mayor of Boulogne is anxious to have it known that only 157 deaths have resulted from small-pox during the last three months. "Boulogne being situated on the straits of Dover, the sea air constantly blowing through the town renders it a most desirable resort." The good Mayor forgets that the sea air constantly blowing, disperses germs of disease from the open sewer of a river running through the town with every puff

Extraordinary arguments are not altogether a novelty in the French press, but that the present Tunis difficulty has in some way been brought about solely by the State persecution of the priests, as seriously asserted in the "Figaro," is almost ludicrous. According to them, the Arab has such reverence for the priest, that he naturally concludes a nation capable of ill-treating the clergy to be unworthy of respect, and hence all the trouble.

"Rira bien qui rit le dernier," is a French saw which will be exemplified on Saturday, when the much calumniated General Cissey will come out of the enquête with flying colours. The tribunes at the Chambers will be filled to overflowing—the Deputies are beseiged for tickets. In the meantime, the too celebrated Madame de Kaulla has thought fit to pay her lingère, who sued her, for some most elaborate under garments, the satin bows of which were not to Mme. Kaulla's taste; whereon she cavilled about the bills. Mme. de Wailly has been up before the Court for the same motive. The Countess Georges Muiszals is under a similar threat from her dressmaker.

France finds her Tunis trouble growing upon her hands. King Humbert has accepted the resignation of the Carroli Ministry, but has to be very careful in selecting the successors, lest warlike counsels should unduly prevail.

It is stated that the Italian Ambassador in Paris, General Cialdini, has resigned.

News from the Country.

Fifty candidates struggled in Brighton on Saturday for the thirty vacancies on the Board of Guardians. It is a repulsive feature of the candidature that several of the men competing are opposed to compulsory vaccination.

In the Brighton Visitors' List we note the names of Viscount and Viscountess Lismore, the Earl of Fife, the Countess of Kenmare, Viscount Castleross, Viscount Hurford, Lady A. Campbell, Lady Dryden, Lady Fisher, Lady Gwendolin Ramsden, Sir W. Medhurst, Lady Webster, Sir Chandos S. H. Reade, Lady Reade, Sir Eardley Wilmot, Bart., and the Hon. Mrs. Times.

A fairly good audience met at the Pavilion Dome on Saturday to hear an organ recital by Mr. A. King.

The Yorkshire Congregational Body—nothing is said about its head—has resolved to encourage the Government by expressing its ardent admiration of the "courageous sense of justice and christian rectitude" displayed in the Transvaal settlement. But the Union objects to saddle the resolution with any reference to Boer slavery or the Union Jack being

turned topsy-turvy. There seems just now to be about as much strength in one union as in the other.

Sir William Harcourt will not inaugurate the Derby Liberal Association in Easter week as stated. The inauguration has been postponed until autumn, when Sir William and several of his friends may be expected to talk important "copy" for the papers.

Facts, as stated officially, are as follows:—Somewhere about August, 1878, H.M. ship "Speedy," and Mr. d'Avigdor's yacht "Hebe," came into collision, by whose fault does not appear. At any rate, the owner of the yacht claimed damages, and the Lords of the Admiralty having been informed that £40 would be accepted in full discharge, directed the issue of an order for that sum to be sent to Mr. d'Avigdor, who received and cashed the cheque, at the same time repudiating the agreement. The commander-in-chief at Portsmouth had, it was stated, been misinformed, and negotiations were recommenced. Eighty guineas were next offered, but likewise declined by Mr. d'Avigdor, who finally agreed to accept £100.

Business at the Portsmouth Dockyard, as in New-street, Spring Gardens, seems to be transacted on somewhat happy-go-lucky principles. The clerks either gratuitously assumed that Mr. d'Avigdor, having agreed to accept the £100, had previously destroyed the cheque for £40, or else, as is more probable, they thought nothing more about it, and so issued a fresh order for the full sum of £100, which Mr. d'Avigdor accepted.

When the blunder was discovered, application was made to the owner of the "Hebe," pointing out to him that he had now received £140 for damages, which, by his own admission, did not exceed £100, and requesting the return of the difference.

News from Town.

Mr. Bradlaugh has been re-elected for Northampton. Are we then to see him, after the Easter recess, go through the degrading form of swearing loyalty to a sovereign whose claims he repudiates in the name of a God whom he denies?

His majority was a narrow one. At the election of last spring he polled 3,980 votes, against 3,437 on Saturday. On the former occasion he was 758 votes ahead of the first Conservative candidate; this number has now been reduced to 132.

Will the decision of Northampton settle the vexed question of the oath, and will affirmation be universally allowed? It will be interesting to take notice what number of members elect to take their seats without taking the oath.

How some Liberals love one another. Mr. Samuel Morley is, according to Mr. Ashton Dilke in his penny Sunday harmonium, the Chairman of the London and Counties Liberal Union, "a new organisation founded for the purpose of reclaiming the erring sheep who inhabit suburban villas, and persistently vote Tory, to the Liberal fold. The idea is a worthy one," admits Mr. Dilke, "but Mr. Samuel Morley is chairman. Can the Liberal party," asks Mr. Dilke, "be reorganised on a basis of Mr. Samuel Morley?" Really, Mr. Dilke, this is hardly a fair question. What is "a basis of Mr. Samuel Morley?"

Is there anything in the rumour that two other members of the Cabinet contemplate sending in their resignations to her Majesty? and that the Land Bill is to be very strongly opposed by more than one influential member on the ministerial side of the House? A correspondent writes: "The Duke's personal explanation, its accompanying circumstances, and Sir Stafford Northcote's unusually rigourous speech upon the motion for the adjournment of the House combined to stimulate the opposition to a frame of hopefulness and enthusiasm such as it has not known since it quitted the treasury benches a year ago."

Just thirty-three years ago yesterday, as the "Observer" reminds us, the Duke of Wellington planted his cannon to sweep down Feargus O'Connor and his Chartists as they approached the Houses of Parliament. The Duke's preparations were, however, rendered unnecessary by the tact and good-humour of the police, who managed the crowd so well that it remained orderly throughout, and dispersed before arriving at Westminster, leaving of all that vast congregation of malcontents only three "growlers," by which the petition was conveyed in instalments to the House.

Had the Chartists lived to-day, they would have had to find new grievances, for in other ways than they suggested, their original causes of complaint have been to a great extent removed.

The Russians do not love us, I am afraid. In an article commenting on the attempted blow-up of the Mansion House (if ever such a thing there were) the "Journal de St. Petersbourg compliments the city police on their meritorious activity, affirms that the United States is to be applied to for the extradition of the suspected Irish Nihilists who have gone to New York, and concludes thus: "All right, when their own interests are at stake; the English can put themselves to trouble, and in defiance of the absence of treaties on the matter, can count on the complaisance of foreign nations to yield up bad characters."

One to Mr. Biggar. In the lobby the other evening, previous to the break-up, an English acquaintance asked him had they any well-cared parks in Ireland? "Deed, aye," answered the irrepressible, "the parks you Saxons send us across—parks of artillery!"

Who is the sinner this time? The full text of the new Irish Land Bill, covering seven columns of small type, appeared in the Dublin "Freeman's Journal" of Friday morning. It must have been telegraphed from London on

Thursday night before Mr. Gladstone had done speaking, or any of the mere ordinary representatives of the people had had an opportunity of perusing the lengthy document. Did the editor get a surreptitious copy of it in advance from the Government printing-office at 104, Shoe-lane? Does Mr. Gray consider it consistent with his position in Parliament?

"The Cuckoo" is indignant.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, in his ministerial capacity as President of the Board of Trade, has had his official eye fixed for some time upon the faulty lights of fishing and other small craft that infest our coast. If the contemplated changes are enforced, as they should be in the interests of life and property, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, of the Solar Works, Birmingham, whose representatives seek and find business orders at all the ports, may not find the change prejudicial to his pocket.

During the Easter recess the Tory party will do well to take stock of their position.

It would be idle to disguise the fact that the Central Conservative Committee at St. Stephen's Chambers is very unpopular amongst those Conservatives who are above the level of mere wire-pulling. The rank and file of the party in the provinces are inclined to ask whether there is any prospect of vitality being conveyed to the extremities of the empire by the Rt. Hon. W. H. Smith, Mr. Edward Stanhope, Mr. Rowland Winn, Mr. Gorst, and the Hon. Fitzroy Stewart, first revolving like teetotums upon the pavement of the lobbies, and then holding private conclaves in St. Stephen's Chambers, with the result of establishing a system, which by its over-centralization is almost as fatal to individual and local independence as that of the caucus.

Government officials, as a rule, move slowly, except when they want to make persons pay. A striking incident of this occurred on Tuesday morning. Mr. Gladstone introduced his Budget on Monday, and passed it through the House late on that evening, proposing amongst other things, an increase in the rum duties of 2d. per gallon. A well-known firm of distillers of Lambeth, following the custom of the trade, made out a cheque on Monday afternoon for the duty payable on several puncheons of rum. On presenting the cheque and clearing warrant on Tuesday morning, just after the bonding warehouse opened (10 o'clock), their clerk was surprised at being told that some money was required, as the duty was increased by last night's Budget. Although the officials had had hardly time to eat their breakfasts and read the newspapers announcing the increase of duty, the firm were charged the extra 2d. per gallon, and, to make matters worse, were not allowed to clear the spirit until some new arrangements were made to test the strength by distillation. Any other arrangement, except one for revenue collections, would have taken months to carry out.

The Duke of Argyll some time since confronting the then Conservative Treasury Bench said:—"You are being found out." The Opposition bench can now return the compliment and say "your grace is found out-side the cabinet."

By-the-bye, as it is stated that the reason of the Duke of Argyll resigning is because he repudiates the Irish Land Bill, we should like to know whether his Grace intends migrating to Candahar or the Transvaal? This would be surrendering his post by insignificant stages.

In the City.

I mentioned the other day that the Fijian Loan had been subscribed for several times over. Candidly, I should be sorry to invest largely in this Loan, and for exactly the same reason that subscribers to the Transvaal issues are now standing upon thorns. The other night, Mr. Grant Duff clearly defined the position of these unfortunates. He said, "This loan has not been taken charge of by the British Government, and that Government has neither paid the interest nor provided for the sinking fund." Probably some fairly satisfactory arrangement may be come to, and the Transvaal Government will honestly meet its engagements. But when once England retires from that colony the position will be precarious in the extreme.

Again, should England abandon Fiji, to whom will investors look for payment? To the indigenous Fijians—or whom?

The Bank of England has been authorized to issue three-quarters of a million of additional bank notes, and it cannot be said that the order was passed any too soon. Since the Bank Act passed in 1844 the private note issue has contracted to the extent of £2,675,440, while the Bank, which possesses the right to issue its own notes in the proportion of two-thirds of the lapsed issues, has only utilized its power to the tune of a million. With trade reviving, there is little doubt the extra notes will be readily absorbed in the ordinary course of commerce, more especially as the gold drain to America looks likely to prove comparatively permanent.

Yet another Extract of Beef Company, or rather, a change of a small into a large affair. Delacre's La Plata Extract of Beef Company is to be sold to a new company, with a capital of £200,000, so that the business may be properly developed. By the way, this extract took the first prize at the Melbourne Exhibition. The company expect to supplant Liebig's Company, which regularly pays ten per cent. dividends. I am sure I hope they may.

Solicitors will be glad to know that the Annual Meeting of the London and Provincial Law Assurance Society will be held at the Society's Offices on the 27th of this month, to appoint directors and auditors. Afterwards the quinquennial report and division of profits will be taken, Mr. Hardy tells me it will prove pleasant reading to shareholders and policy-holders.

In connection with the order issued by the Committee of "Lloyd's" that no person, except through the introduction of a member, shall have access to their room, a subscriber writes: "It appears that until so recent as last week people having business there were allowed, without interference, to walk straight in and transact their business in the ordinary way, as if they were members of the establishment." Now, out of respect to the subscribers, this was an unwarrantable wrong, and I am pleased to see that the Committee have at last

taken steps to crush an abuse which was not only an injustice to the members, but also to the public at large.

During last year 1,133 Joint Stock Companies were registered, with a proposed capital of £123,831,032. This is nearly on a par with the years 1873 and 1874, when speculation was at its height. 1881 bids fair to surpass anything on record.

The next meeting of the Statistical Society will be held on Tuesday, the 12th instant, to hear a paper by Mr. H. R. Droop, on "The Methods of Electing Representatives." Mr. Droop is, I hear, better known in legal than in literary circles.

It is time that the system of "Bills of Sale" should be reformed. Bailiff's assistants attached to County Courts, whose weekly wages are nominally about thirty shillings, contrive to make a nice addition to this amount. In cases where executions are granted, unless the creditor liberally "tips" the officer, a convenient little arrangement is concocted between him and the debtor, which results in a report that a "bill of sale" on the furniture exists. The Judges have been acquainted with the practice, but nothing has been or seems likely to be done.

Hungarian Gold Rentes have passed the magic 100. On Saturday they touched 100½. Peruvians fell to 24¼, and look likely to progress downwards. How long before they see 20 again?

Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, of Greenwich-road and Long-acre, have received a cablegram from Messrs. James McEwan and Co., their representatives at Melbourne, announcing that the jury have conferred on them a First-class Award for Steam and Manual Fire Engines.

The Services.

The Volunteers are girding up their loins eager for the fray on Easter Monday. About 6000 men were drilling in the Parks and the suburban open spaces on Saturday.

Sir John Holker is guilty of prophecy. On Saturday night, at a Conservative Working Mens' Meeting, he declared the conclusion of peace with the Boers, was the peace of a peace-at any-price party—purchased by a tremulous Government at the cost of our influence in South Africa, and of our national honour, and he thought we might now disband our armies, and sell our war ships for old iron and matchwood.

But Sir John Holker, like too many prophets, speaks after the event. As we have already announced, there are three iron-clads now for sale by auction—but everybody must not bid at once.

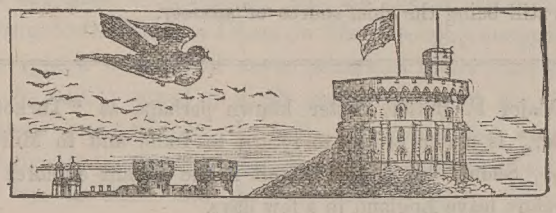
Commander Robert W. Cragie and Chaplain the Rev. R. O. D. Ross-Lewin, M.A., have been appointed to the "Repulse" when commissioned.

To-day commences the evacuation of Candahar. Some officials of the Ameer and a body of his troops have already arrived there, and General Hume and Colonel St. John are making arrangements with the new Governor, as to whether any and what aid in money and arms is to be given him!

The troops which will form the garrisons of Pishin and Quetta during the summer are the 13th Hussars, the 2nd Scinde Horse, the 7th Bengal Cavalry, one heavy, one field, and one mountain battery; the 61st and 63rd Foot, the 3rd Bengal, the 9th and 13th Bombay Native Infantry. The 1st Scinde Horse, the 4th, 8th, 15th, and the 24th Bombay Native Infantry, with one native mountain battery, will garrison the posts on the Hurnai road, including Tal. The Quetta force will furnish garrisons for the posts in Pishin and for the frontier post of Chaman.

Thus the whole of the troops now in Candahar will march to India with the exception of the two regiments of cavalry and three of infantry forming the rear column, and will take the Bolan routes.

Is it possible that such madness is in contemplation?



Courts and Courtiers.

The Countess of Lonsdale has been confined of a daughter. We congratulate the baby on possessing the most beautiful mother in England.

We felicitate also the Countess on reviving, in however mild a degree, the hopes of the Lonsdales; while rejoicing with the Hon. Hugh on being still within prospect of the Peerage.

The Earl of Lonsdale has for many months past been afloat. He is coming home to news.

Prince Woronzow, arrived at Osborne yesterday on a special mission to Her Majesty to announce the demise of the late Emperor Alexander II. and the accession of the Emperor Alexander III.

Prince Woronzow was introduced by Earl Sydney, G.C.B. (Lord Steward of the Household).

Their Royal Hignesses the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Leopold were present with the Queen during the interview.

The Hon. Lady Macdonald is seriously ill.

Mr. Gladstone read the lessons yesterday in Hawarden Church, wearing as usual the surplice and Oxford M.A. hood.

There was no "fourth party" during the performance, and it passed off therefore without opposition.

Count Herbert "of Bismark" has returned to Berlin, which fact announces an arrangement with his father touching Princess Carolath. The suit for a divorce is under trial Prince Carolath having instituted it.

Gossip of Town.

—o—

LORD BEACONFIELD'S ILLNESS.

Lord Beaconfield's condition last night, although showing some slight signs of improvement, requires Dr. Kidd and Dr. Bruce to remain in attendance until this morning. The largest crowd seen in Curzon Street had gathered yesterday to wait the morning's bulletin, and the numbers increased throughout the day. The Prince of Wales called in the evening and remained with Lord Rowton for half-an-hour. The Duke of Cambridge and the Duchess sent earlier, and the Princess Louise and the Duchess of Teck were among the distinguished visitors in the evening.

During the day Lord Beaconsfield had gained rather than lost in strength, but at 8 o'clock last night he was prostrated with an attack of spasmodic breathing. Later his lordship had partaken of some nourishment. During the night he has experienced a period of quiet repose. His general condition this morning remains generally unaltered, the protracted weakness still being the chief source of anxiety.

Major F. Butler, better known perhaps as "Turkoman Butler," is under orders to return to India and to Military duty. Should his health permit it the gallant explorer will therefore leave England in a few days.

On landing at Bombay, Major Butler expects to be arrested for debt.

Never, indeed, has a greater scandal been permitted to proceed to extremities. But a War Office that can play practical jokes with the honour of the country and the prestige of the army, can hardly be expected to respect the good name of any one regiment, or the honour of an individual officer.

Major Butler, it will be remembered, was sent by Lord Lytton to the Turkomans on a political mission, and admirably did Major Butler succeed. But Lord Lytton yielded unworthily to the pressure of home politics, and betrayed the man who had served him so well.

Now Lord Lytton owes even that measure of public respect which he possesses to the forbearance of critics.

Yet his Lordship and the country may measure, if they will, the breadth and depth of our feeling in the matter by the fact that, detesting the Duke of Argyll as we do for his bitter contempt of Indian interests, we nevertheless regret that he was not better informed when he attacked Lord Lytton's policy in the East. We know it for a fact, having been in India at the time, that Lord Lytton did sketch out a campaign against Russia, that Persian territory was our rendezvous, and that the Turkomans were to rise in co-operation as soon as our forces reached Kermanshai, and that the appointments upon the head-quarters staff of the army of India were actually allotted.

Shall we name some of them, Lord Lytton?

Yet, my lord, you have denied from your place among the Peers that you had ever any intention of assembling an army to meet Russia in the East; and it is your word, my lord, that now condemns Major Butler to disgrace.

Will not the Duke of Argyle take up the matter before it is too late? or will Sir Garnet Wolseley step in to avert the impending scandal?

At present Major Butler is owed money by the Government of India for expenses incurred on the good faith of Lord Lytton, but repudiated by the ex-Viceroy. His creditors are about to arrest Major Butler, but if that gallant officer has to appear in Court, the Radicals and Liberals of England, will have a sadly terrible text for preaching the immorality of an Imperial policy."

Mr. Gladstone particularly requests that NO ONE will address any letters to him at Hawarden during the Easter holidays.

It is now undersood that England and Italy will offer to mediate between the French and the Bey, with a view to preventing fresh serious complications, provided, of course, the Boers give us permission.

Another meeting of hairy and unwashed Socialists was held at their club, in Rose-street, Soho, on Saturday night, the delegate from the Stratford Radical Club in the chair. The meeting was of a feeble kind.

Yesterday afternoon another gathering was held at Peckham Rye "to protest against the arbitrary and illegal action of the Liberal Government" in arresting Herr Most.

Mr. W. F. Lowe, of Lewisham, objects to vaccination. He has resolved, he says, never to have another child vaccinated, as he had nearly lost one child through it. All things considered, it is perhaps better for the public weal that Mr. W. F. Lowe, of Lewisham, should nearly lose one child, than the other residents of that suburb should, by reason of his obstinacy, quite lose their interesting bairns.

I see that my old friend, Mr. Sikes, of Huddersfield, is to have Knighthood inflicted on him, for having "first suggested the idea of Post Office Savings Banks to the Government." In point of fact he did nothing of the kind, for Mr. Whitbread, many years before, had embodied the "idea" in a Bill which was read a second time in the House of Commons. Still Mr. Sikes was so far as he knew, perfectly original. He told me that the idea "came into his head, one afternoon, as he was over his tea," and I have thought better of afternoon tea ever since. He has waited twenty years for his reward, and no one will grudge it him. Such a little one.

Mr. Edward North Buxton, of Knighton-house, Woodford, who has been elected to the chairmanship of the London School Board, in the place of the late Sir Charles Reed, is the third son of the late Sir Edward North Buxton, of Cromer Norfolk, and grandson of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, M.P., the Philanthropist and colleague of Wilberforce in the abolition of slavery.

SPIRITS ON TRIAL

BY OUR OWN GOSSIP.

Saturday was a half-holiday at Old Bailey. Mrs. Fletcher's witnesses in waiting, "gentlemen of position, magistrates, members of the Royal Society, and gentlemen of literary ability, who were able to say that they had seen the manifestations of Mr. Fletcher," came and went away unheard.

Mr. Justice Hawkins ruled such evidence inadmissible and the witnesses "out of Court."

Mr. Montagu Williams then proceeded with his address for the Crown. "It was not of much consequence that he should have the last word. The case would have to be decided by twelve business men, who were well fitted to take the whole of the facts into consideration."

"Substantially, the question for the jury to decide was, Did the prisoner obtain the property from Mrs. Hart-Davies by fraud and false pretences? This was the sole question at issue. Mrs. Hart-Davies might be a vain, frivolous woman, but it should not prevent her receiving the protection of the law."

"These 'trances,' shiverings, shutting of eyes, and such like nonsense and mummery had been resorted to solely for the purpose of enabling the prisoner and those concerned with her to rob Mrs. Hart-Davies. They knew the intense love she had for her mother, and upon this affection they had traded to enrich themselves at her expense. Upon the evidence, corroborated as it was, the Jury would have no alternative but to convict the prisoner."

Mr. Montagu Williams sat down, and the Court rose, adjourning for luncheon until this morning.

That impulsive and impetuous lady Mrs. Hart-Davies is likely to appear before the public in a new light. Hitherto she has posed as a guileless affectionate creature, credulous to a fault, and weeping at the rebuke of a judge. Yet we have every reason to believe that from evidence already given she is a shrewd, clear-headed woman of business.

Moreover the public, which is inclined to prejudge the case, should recollect that Mrs. Fletcher came of her own free will from America to stand her trial, knowing that she would be arrested on her arrival, and not improbably sent into penal servitude. Her friends call it heroism.

When a bank note has been stolen men and women are in the habit of supposing that if they tell the Bank of England the number of the note, and payment of the note thus numbered is stopped, that they are on the high road to discovering the thief, quite apart from the fact that like a man who is "wanted," a stolen bank note goes abroad for a time, returning only when the whole affair has been forgotten and the particular number no longer searched after. It may interest our readers to know that there are some agreeable persons abroad who are earning a precarious but dishonest living by buying up the stopped notes and changing their numbers.

One of these gentlemen has cashed some notes with Mr. Suffell, the well-known money changer and agent in the Montagne de la Cour, at Brussels, and the Bank of England now refuse him payment, alleging that the alteration makes the note of no value. Mr. Suffell has, however, had the case tried before Lord Coleridge, whose judgment is awaited.

At the old Varsity Oars' Jubilee dinner on Thursday, Mr. Chitty, Q.C., M.P., took the chair, and some two hundred and thirty gentlemen out of the five hundred, more or less, who have taken part in past inter-university boat-races, sat down at the table. About seventy others are known to be dead, a similar number are in the colonies or abroad, a dozen or so cannot be accounted for; and, therefore, the organisers of the banquet may fairly be congratulated upon the way in which the idea was appreciated and responded to.

In his speech, the chairman alluded to the interesting fact that, although neither crew has yet given a Prime Minister to this country, one of them has given a premier to France in the person of M. Waddington.

Eight years ago, the Oxford and Cambridge crews dined for the first and last time at the Mansion House, in the City of London. Sir Sydney Waterlow was Lord Mayor then, and he made them as comfortable as possible, though there was necessarily a certain amount of restraint; and it was no wonder that some of the guests left the Egyptian Hall to indulge in the "weed" in the saloon, and even on the grand staircase "on the quiet." Singular to say, the key of the principal entrance to the Mansion House (in Charlotte-row), disappeared that night, a freak it had never performed before; and more singular still, it turned up in the coat-tail pocket of one of the gorgeous livery servants, the said coat having been hung up near the door. The next year, Sir Andrew Lusk, the Finsbury pet, was in office, and the "hospitalities of the Mansion House" were again sought to be extended to the crews, but after a rather awkward halt, the offer was declined.

Mr. Artemus Ward was very funny at the Royal Institution on Saturday, through the appreciative medium of the Rev. R. H. Haweis. All the keen thrusts at Bunkum told as freshly as if "Artemus Ward and his Book" was unknown—as probably indeed it was—to most of the assembled intellects.

But Mr. Haweis missed a point. He forgot Artemus "among the spirits." The spirit-rapper, who leaves off working, lets his hair grow, sponges his living out of other people, "eats all the dickshunnaries he can find, and goze round chock full of big words, scarein the wimmin folks, and destroyin the piece of mind of every famerlee he enters," would have told home.

At last we are on the high road to improvement as regards omnibuses. To-day the Midland Railway Company commence running a service of these vehicles between their terminus at St. Pancras and Charing Cross and Waterloo Stations which will be available for the use of the general public en route, as well as for passengers travelling between the various termini.

I predict great things from this small beginning, for till now the London General Omnibus Company has never had to deal with a competitor who was their equal in that all important point "capital," and their superior in comfortable vehicles.

The Edison Electric Light Company have, in addition to this contract, undertaken to light the interiors of a portion of New York city before illuminating the streets. This is wise. Electricity like charity should commence at home.

The acceptance of the new three-act comedy—which we had informed our readers had been submitted by Mr. G. R. Sims to Miss Lawler—was officially announced before the curtain on Saturday evening at the Royalty. The audience received the intelligence with the most marked signs of approbation.

"Crutch and Toothpick" proved such a success at the Royalty two years ago that we have been at a loss to understand why another comedy by this clever young writer has not been produced at one of our West-end theatres.

Mr. Sims is perhaps best known as "Dagonet" of the "Referee," and his writings have been, we may say, mainly instrumental in establishing the popularity of that journal.

But, in speaking of THE CUCKOO yesterday, "Dagonet" has been misinformed. "Dagonet" will find that CUCKOO notes will become brighter and stronger as the months go by.

Law and Police.

To allow a pony to fall upon your legs is scarcely the part of a rational man with the use of his legs.

This is No. 11, in Hart-street.

This is the door that led into No. 11, in Hart-street.

This is Mr. Smith who came out of the door that led into No. 11, in Hart-street.

This is the pony that upset Mr. Smith, who came out of the door that led into No. 11, in Hart-street.

This is the van that upset the pony that upset Mr. Smith that came out of the door that led into No. 11, in Hart-street.

This is the jury that fined the van that upset the pony that upset Mr. Smith that came out of the door that led into No. 11. in Hart-street.

This is the £50 that Mr. Smith got.

And what did the pony get?

A Derby jury has returned a verdict of "Not guilty" against a clergyman (the Rev. T. Howard Twist), who was charged with personating the chief constable by sending in his (the chief constable's) name threatening telegrams to Twist's mother-in-law. The most remarkable feature of the business is that the reverend gentleman has publicly admitted that he did what this sapient jury by their verdict say he did not do.

But really I think, looking at the evidence adduced in the trial of the Rev. T. Howard Twist, the Home Secretary's attention should be called to the matter. The rev. gentleman still officiates. What is Bishop Maclagan about?

Sir Thomas Parkyns appeared on Saturday at the Greenwich police court, in answer to five summonses—taken out under the Locomotives Act—for using a steam tricycle. The question, of course, was that which we raised the other day, whether a steam tricycle is a "locomotive" within the meaning of the act, and the court deciding that it was so, Sir T. Parkyns had to pay a nominal fine of a shilling in each case, the defendant having permission to take the matter to superior court.

Is the steam tricycle to become a feature of our streets? It will take us some time to become accustomed to sitting on boilers; but it will take the British public still longer to grow tolerant of the "steam launches of the streets."

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION.—Mr. Baron Pollock will deliver judgment in the case of the National Provincial Bank of England v. Harle, at Westminster, on Tuesday, the 12th inst. The following cases will be heard on further consideration by Sir H. Hawkins, in the Lord Justices Court, on Wednesday next, at 10.30:—Linton v. the Leicester Brick Company (Leicester)—Waghorn v. Paraire (Middlesex)—Derby Commercial Bank v. Sibert (London)—Ashdown v. Ingamells (Middlesex)—London and County Bank v. Card (London.) Mr. Justice Stephen will deliver judgment at the Guildhall, on Wednesday next, the 13th inst., in the case of Fleming v. the Mayor, &c., of the City of Manchester (Manchester).

During the coming circuits there will be five courts of Nisi Prius at Westminster, one court in Banc, and one Judge at Chambers. As soon as the Judges return from circuit there will be six courts of Nisi Prius and three courts in Banc, the arrangements for the business of those in Banc remaining the same as for Hilary Sittings.

Easter Vacation Sittings end on Wednesday next, the 13th inst., and the Easter Sittings commence on Tuesday, the 26th inst. The Chancery Chambers will be closed from Friday, the 15th, until Tuesday, the 19th inst., both days inclusive.

(In reply to Correspondents we regret to say that our space in the "Cuckoo" is too limited to enable us to do more than give extracts from the list of Law notices which are furnished to us in common with all our other daily Contemporaries.)—ED.

What bold Eton boy has dared to steal the swishing block? Not that the exploit was original on his part, for the same feat was performed by the late Marquis of Waterford, if our recollection serves, in the time of the historic Keate.

Considering that the coveted object is about as large and awkward as a small writing-table, it would appear that a small conspiracy must have been afoot. Meantime, what "substitutes for flogging" has the head-master adopted? Does he bind delinquents to his chariot-wheels, after the manner of Mr. Childers, when Mrs. Hornby drives out?

One of the sights of town directly will be the enlarged nest of the CUCKOO, lighted by electricity.

The arrangement made for lighting the Thames Embankment terminated on Saturday. But the contract has been renewed with the Société Général d' Electricité until the end of June.

The Upper Norwood Private Discussion Society met this week for coffee and chat at the mansion of Mr. Stuart, on Beulah-hill. "The Treatment of Aborigines" was the subject, and was eloquently treated by the host, Messrs. Searle, Stent, Judd, Bell, Rum, and Dr. Haughton.

Churches and Churchmen.

CANON LIDDON AT ST. PAUL'S—Canon Liddon's sermon at St. Paul's yesterday afternoon was a magnificent feat of oratory. The dome of the Cathedral was crowded to its utmost limits, and many eminent personages in Church and State occupied seats in the stalls. For sixty minutes the English Chrysostom held his audience spell-bound. The subject of the sermon was the value and danger of emotion as a help to the religious life, and the preacher rose to the highest end of pulpit oratory as, in bidding the congregation to attend the Passion Music to be given at St. Paul's Tuesday, and to the observance of the Three Hours' Agony on Good Friday. He disclaimed against the confusion of genuine emotion with transient religious enthusiasm. Canon Liddon paid a graceful compliment to the power and eloquence with which, during the past week, Mr. Knox Little has enforced the virtues and comprehensiveness of the Divine Redemption, and concluded with a fervent appeal to the congregation to justify the efforts of the Capitular body, to make the Cathedral of practical use to the people of London. The blessing was given by the Bishop of London.

Is St. Paul's to have its big Bourdon bell? It will cost less than the Griffin, with more sound but less fury. The Merchant Taylors', the Clothworkers', the Grocers', the Fishmongers', the Salters', the Mercers', and the Plumbers' Companies have all contributed their mite, and only a trifle of £500 or so is wanted to give St. Pauls the finest bell in England. It may be true that the cathedral chimes are lost in the din of Fleet-street and Cheapside, but they are heard at Hampstead; and the big bell, it is said, could be seen to toll from Highgate Archway.

Dr. Maurice Davies has formally asked leave from the Bishop of Durham to speak at the forthcoming Church Congress in opposition to the paper which regards Spiritualism as a "deviation" from Christianity, and classes it with Infidelity and Secularism. It is a poor form of Christianity that sees any deviation from itself in Spiritualism.

Dr. Maurice Davies, moreover, informs the Editor of "Light" that he has received communications from both the Archbishops on the subject of the letter addressed by him to to the Primate. The Archbishop of Canterbury has left for the Continent; but his chaplain writes to Dr. Davies, saying that his Grace took the letter with him to read during his peregrinations. The Archbishop of York wrote at once acknowledging the receipt of the printed copy sent to him by Dr. Davies in pamphlet form; and this letter we have already published.

We agree with "Light," that nothing could be more candid or reasonable than this letter, differing, as it does, entirely from the prejudiced opinions expressed by the generality of clerical critics.

Dean Stanley preached last night at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on the "Church of England." The building was crammed to excess. The Abbot of Westminster discoursed in true Erastian style. Any Ritualists who were present must have had a bad half-hour.

SUNDAY WORK IN THE CITY.

The civic mind is puritan, but it is not immaculate. The corporators in their public capacity refuse to grant the Sunday opening of the Guildhall Library, but they decline to condemn the sablatical preparations for the electric light. Yesterday there came under our notice a flagrant instance of non-observance of the Day of Rest, and one the like of which is not, we hope, like to find many reproductions within this realm of England. During the greater part of the afternoon a gang of workmen was employed in effecting repairs at the Broad-street Station, whether the part of the fabric under process of renovation belonged to the North London or the London and North Western Railway Company, we are unable to say, but it is surely the business of some shareholder of one or other of these bodies to demand some investigation. It is simply scandalous that even the thin end of the wedge should be inserted. The City of London has deservedly a high character for preserving the decencies of commercial life, but it cannot tolerate that any encroachment should be made upon one of the most cherished privileges of Englishmen. Before passing a final judgment, we shall be glad to be assured that our correspondent is in error who states that the work was not of an unjust kind, and that the men, being company,s servants, could not be fairly called voluntary workmen. London, in the main, is religious, and it is to be fervently hoped that the day may be far distant when its Sunday shall bear any resemblance to that of Paris.

We commend this question to the careful attention of the Sunday Society and of the Lord's Day Rest Association. These bodies, it is true, move upon different, and perhaps divergent lines, but they are at once upon the main question of resisting all efforts to degrade the true sanctity of Sunday.

A person, signing himself "John Morley," has been consulting the "Rock" on matters spiritual, and the sapient editor has replied thus: "Your being baptised in infancy by a Romish priest has nothing whatever to do with the matter. Your baptismal certificate is required merely to testify to your exact age; that is all." Can this be our friend of the "Fortnightly?"

The Day's Amusements.

A large company assembled on Saturday at the grounds of the Gun Club at Notting-hill, to witness the shooting for the Oxford and Cambridge Cup. There were in all 35 entries, but owing to the adverse wind no great scores were made, and the trophy ultimately falling to Mr. Walter Smith (21½ yards rise), who killed five in succession. Mr. Turner-Turner was second, having missed one. Mr. Smith was by far the shortest distance man in the contest. What was the handicapper about?

C. Wood rode four winners at the Alexandra Park Meeting on Saturday.

Camelund was backed on Saturday to win £10,000 at 20 to 1 for the Two Thousand.

In the City and Suburban betting Prestonpans now stands at 10 to 1, while as much as 100 to 7 can be had on Bend Or's chance. Buchanan is not so popular as before, having gone down to 20 to 1.

The only race meetings worth mentioning this week are Nottingham, which takes place to-morrow and Wednesday. Also the Aldershot Drag Hunt Steeplechases on Wednesday.

In football circles there were several cup tie contests on Saturday. Old Carthusians won the English at the Oval, Queen's Park were victorious for the Scotch at Glasgow, and Dewsbury won the Yorkshire Cup at Leeds.

The Queensbury boxing competitions at Lillie Bridge on Saturday were not very exciting on account of the fewness of the entries and the lack of merit. In the middle weights, W. Northcott, of Trinity College, Cambridge, showed fair form, but was beaten in the final bout by Bellhouse of Manchester.

S. H. Baker, L.A.C., won the Quarter-mile All Comers race at Christ College, Finchley, sports on Saturday, F. Single, Caius College, Cambridge, being second.

Several athletic champions will assemble at the Dome, Brighton, on Saturday next, on the occasion of an assault-at-arms being held there in aid of the Sussex County Hospital.

Some capital wrestling can be witnessed at Lillie Bridge on Good Friday, when the Cumberland and Westmoreland Society hold their annual sports.

Among the fashionable cricket fixtures I note the match M.C.C. v. Orleans Club, to take place at Twickenham on May 14; also M.C.C. v. Devonshire Park, fixed to come off at Eastbourne on August 10.

The Fifth Dragoon Guards Steeplechase will be run over the Wetherby Course on April 18 and 19, while the other regimental fixtures for the month are as follows: Royal Artillery, at Bromley, 20th; 4th Hussars, and 7th Dragoons, at Aldershot, 21st; and 16th Lancers at York, 30th. The Aldershot Divisional Races are fixed for April 21, 22, and 23.

The Amateur Boxing Open Championship Meeting to take place to-morrow will be a long affair, indeed beating record in this matter. There are over thirty bouts to be fought out, and as all the best talent in the amateur world will be present, a good twelve hours "enjoyment" should be experienced.

The treatment received by representatives of the press at the Inter-Varsity sports year after year, is the result of the working of a questionable clique, and I am happy to say that "from information received," I am able to state for the future there will be a fair field, and no favour.

Football. Final ties were played off on Saturday for the Association Challenge Cup at Kennington Oval, between the Old Carthusians and the old Etonians, resulting in an easy victory to the former; and for the Yorkshire Challenge Cup at Leeds, the game being finally won by Dewsbury after a very hard fight.

A very poor attendance at Lillie Bridge on Saturday to see the boxing for the Marquis of Queensbury's Challenge Cups. Self-defence, however, is an art not less useful nowadays than of yore, and if everybody who can dance could box, there would perhaps be less slander current in society, less open defamation of women, and more heads that deserve punching would be punched.

At the Arts Club.

Our delirious contributor stated the other day—and in our columns too—that Mr. Albery had written a piece specially for the Criterion, in which Mr. Giddens would not appear.

It was news to most of our readers, we expect. Our D.C. thought so too, for he marked it "special" to the manager.

Nor (except for the facts that Mr. Albery did not write it, that the piece was not written for the Criterion, and that Mr. Giddens will play in it) was it so very far wrong?

Miss Bateman at Sadler's Wells announces for next Saturday a new drama, entitled "His Wife," by Mr. H. A. Jones, and founded upon a novel by Mr. Mark Hope. Miss Bateman will be supported by Mr. E. H. Brooke, and, for a week or two, by Miss Kate Pattison.

At the St. James's Theatre, a new version of Emile Augier's "Les Ouvriers" by Mr. Alfred Thompson, will take the place of Tom Taylor's "Sheep in Wolf's Clothing" at the end of the month; in it will appear Mr. Kendal, Mr. Clayton, and Miss Kate Pattison.

"The Ticket-of-Leave Man" will shortly be revived at the Princess's Theatre.

At the Imperial Theatre "London Assurance" will make way for "Arkwright's Wife" on the afternoon of Easter Monday. Miss Helen Barry will play her original part of Margaret Hayes. This lady's husband, by the way, is a tobacconist in the Fulham-road, and right good cigars he sells.

Under the patronage of the Queen, and in fact the whole of the Royal Family, a grand evening concert will be given at the St. James's Hall, on May 4th, in aid of the South African Relief Fund. Tickets may be obtained at all the principal libraries and of the Hon. Secs., Captain Lumley, 22, James-street, Buckingham Gate, and Clement Hoey, Esq., 41, Court-field-gardens, S.W.

When years ago an enterprising correspondent, to keep command of a foreign telegraph wire, cabled the first Book of Genesis to a famous New York daily, the matter it is said was quite new to both editor and printer. It will be awkward if some London paper gives us a review of the forthcoming volume as a new book. A Chicago bookseller told me that the reporter of a St. Louis journal coming into his shop, and taking up Pope said he did not know before that His Holiness wrote poetry, and that he announced the next day that the Pope had just published a new book of poems.

It was very good of Mr. Lionel Tennyson to go down to the Victoria Music Hall on Thursday last, he cannot certainly be congratulated on the effect produced by his version of his father's "Charge of the Light Brigade." Indeed the audience was by no means duly impressed, and tittering was more general than sighing!

An effort is being made at the Working Men's College, Great Ormond-street, to tell in popular form the stories of the Greek and Latin tragedians and poets. The lecturer on Saturday was Mr. R. G. L. Mowbray, Fellow of All Soul's, Oxford, and his theme of the Prometheus of Schylus, a good theme for a good speaker.

At a forthcoming local concert (not a hundred miles from New Wandsworth), it is intended to perform a bright and cheerful chorus from Glintra's opera, entitled, "Life for the Czar." To those acquainted with the chorus in question, the selection will appear at such a time incongruous enough.

Mr. John McCullough will commence his season of five weeks at Drury Lane, in "Virginius," on the 25th. He will be immediately followed by the German players—the Meiningen players—that the principality is so proud of, and with such good reason.

"A Fight for Life," by Savile Clarke and Du Terreaux, will be given at the morning performances at the Gaiety on the 20th and 27th inst.

Mr. Charles Kelly and a company, including Miss Florence Terry, Miss Alma Murray, and Mr. J. Cowper, will subsequently play this piece in the provinces.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Charles Kelly remains at home at the Lyceum.

The Savage Club takes possession of its new premises, Lancaster House on Wednesday.

In "Romeo and Juliet" Madame Modjeska has some capital "business" with a curtain that gives way and helps a a most graceful and dramatic fall. An amateur critic in an æsthetic studio was heard to denounce the stage management for the accident which happened to Modjeska. "It was positively cruel," he said; "the curtain had not been properly fastened, and down the poor lady went. Fortunately, however, she fell upon the couch." One may be too realistic even on the stage. And yet the amateur critic in question is an intelligent gentleman, and can talk by the yard and "by the card," too, about "the immortal swan of Avon."

Mr. George Augustus Sala is back again after his rapid run out and home to St. Petersburg. Mr. Sala's spare hours in the Northern Capital were spent in writing the opening chapters of his "New Serial Romance of Modern Life," which s to appear in "Pan."

The Manager of the Princess' Theatre is making the pavement of London hideous by branding "Branded" in bloated letters on every other flagstone within the four-mile radius. It is illegal and should be summarily "stamped out." Princess's "Drink," by the way, is now "Branded."

The Second Cantor Lecture at the Society of Arts to-night is by Mr. Alan S. Cole, on "The Art of Lace Making."

A lady who has recently written a book about Virginia, is taken to task by a correspondent, who says he knows the country much better than she does. He declares that "this lady went many years ago into a wild uncivilized and rough section of the country, and that from the experience gained there, is as little capable of forming a correct opinion of life in Virginia as a Russian who had passed a few years in the Hebrides would be of describing life in Hampshire."

He declares the book to be the most audacious libel ever perpetrated by ignorance and inexperience; it has caused widespread indignation amongst the English in the State.

If Signor Salvini is a bachelor it is not to be wodnered at. No woman would ever have the nerve to marry him after witnessing his personation of the jealous Moor. If he be a Benedick, I'll wager his wife never goes to see him act.

Salvini has no back head—no cerebellum development. How do the phrenologists account for his animal power and magnetic qualities.

Dear Cuckoo,—Are you in want of an Art critic? If you are, I am your man. I should never have discovered that I was likely to suit you, had I not fortunately happened to read your contemporaries, and to learn therein that the main thing wanted in a frequenter of Art Studios is a knowledge of furniture, not of pictures, and a happy style, something in the auctioneer's-catalogue vein. I can give you "recesses," "delicious 'demi-jour' of purply light," and "gleams and tints of rapturous colour." Not only can I describe the "bronze dorée velvet 'hangings'"—which, by the way, are merely window curtains in this particular instance, and plush—but I could tell you what they cost, what they measured (our firm sent me to take the size), and whether they are paid for yet or not. Just as an afterthought, if you absolutely "insisted," I could manage to say a few words about any pictures that might happen to be lying about. Our firm has a good connection among artists' and, as I expect, some one of our competitors' young men has obtained an appointment on a paper, I am anxious to become equally useful to you and the public.—Yours very obediently.

FREDERICK LONG LEIGHTON BUGGINS.
(Of Tottenham Court Road.)

We are doing something choice in Art-Cretonnes just now. Will you come up? You will meet with every attention at my counter.

The report that the Crown Prince of Austria's marriage with Princess Stephanie of Belgium is fixed for the 26th of May is, to say the least, premature; nothing is or can yet be decided when it will be. When the Empress of Austria left Paris she avoided Brussels, went direct to Munich, where her eldest daughter, Archduchess Giselda, resides—to say nothing of all the cousins of Her Majesty, whose name is legion. Her brother has just taken out his diploma as a physician.

Cuckoo Notes.

Do you not think it was wanting in good taste for Miss Anna Parnell to say that the word Quaker, is synonymous with "liar." This only in the way of suggestion.

Easter eggs are about the only eggs that are always fresh.

The Common Councilmen have come to the conclusion that they need not be apprehensive of a second attempt to blow up the Lord Mayor, inasmuch as they have always "Sir John Bennett on the Watch."

An American chemist has discovered that catsup lends a new and unsuspected zest to cod-liver oil.

It probably does, but what happens to be cod-liver oil in the meantime? Dynamite, so the Nihilists say, adds "a new and unsuspected zest" to candles. But the candles are not so useful "as candles," as they were before the Dynamite was put into them.

With all the late talk about the "ratting" of "The Daily Telegraph," it is worth while to remember that "The Sheffield Daily Telegraph" and "The Newcastle Chronicle," two of the most Radical provincial journals, went round to the Conservative side upon the Eastern Question. Nobody would think of charging Mr. Leng of Sheffield or Mr. Cowen with political selfishness I do not mention it in a partisan spirit, but as an interesting oversight.

"A Delicate Employé" writes from the new Law Courts, or as we ought to say the Royal Courts of Justice, complaining of the offensive odours resulting from the restaurant which has recently been opened on the basement. "Irish stew," he observes, with some force, "may be an excellent dish for luncheon, but the fumes of its preparation are most undesirable immediately after breakfast." Indeed, with the Strand crowded with restaurants, it is difficult to see why another should be needed.

A correspondent writes:—The Sydenham and Norwood fortnightly "social," which draws together the fashion and beauty of the neighbourhood, was held this week at the residence of Mr. Searle, at North-view, Central-hill. The belle was, of course, the beautiful Miss Mary Sheard, about whom the whole Crystal Palace district is raving, and who at Brighton recently threw Miss Craigie Halket into the shade.

I wish my readers would inform me whether Mr. Parnell is descended from Mr. Paul Parnell, farmer, malster, and grazier, who died at the age of 76, after drinking £2,000 worth of Yorkshire Stingo in the course of his life, and, who is said to have been the original of Toby Philpot, whose features were wont to adorn the brown pigs of our youth. Or is he, perhaps, descended from the Dr. Parnell, who, though born and bred in Ireland, did not die before publishing a "Hymn to Contentment?"

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ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

THIS Company was formed to ACQUIRE, WORK, and DEVELOP the well-known GOLD and SILVER MINES, the "EAGLE" SERIES and "WILLIAMSBURG" SERIES of MINES, which embrace the large total area of 1,284,650 square feet, situate in the Eureka (Nevada) mining district, and lying on the same mineral belt as the celebrated Richmond, Eureka Consolidated, and Ruby and Dunderberg Mines.

The directors, having now secured these Mines, offer for subcription the remaining unallotted shares of £1 each, for the purpose of developing the mines in question which are certified to be exceptionally rich in ores.

The Directors desire to draw attention to the following important points:—

1st. The Company is entering into possession of properties earning immediate and substantial profits, and of others in a forward state of development.

2nd. The ores extracted from each series of mines have proved of high grade, and ample in quantity.

3rd. The properties are on the same mineral belt as "The Richmond Consolidated," "The Eureka Consolidated," and other rich mines, and the character of the ores is identical.

Where no allotment is made the application money will be returned without deduction.

It is intended to make early application for a settlement and quotation on the London Stock Exchange.

SPARKLING RUBINE

OR BARK BEER.

(REGISTERED).

A delicious effervescing beverage and a really fine tonic and stimulant. It contains all the active principles of the Red Chinchona or Peruvian Bark, judiciously combined with tasteful and stomachic ingredients.

RUBINE contains neither iron nor phosphorous; therefore does not constipate nor unnaturally excite the brain.

RUBINE has therefore special advantages over other drinks and tonics.

It is extremely palatable. Is stimulating, though non-intoxicating. Although it contains quinine, it will not produce headache; is therefore a combination of extreme value, and is recommended as such by the medical profession. It is an absolute innocuous "Pick-me-up," and may be taken between meals as well as with them.

Dr. T. Stretch Dowse, in his celebrated paper on "Brain and Nerve Exhaustion," read before the Medical Society of London, makes special note, that whereas such drinks as Stout, Ale, Whisky, &c., are only taken with advantage at particular times, "The Bark Beer (RUBINE) manufactured by the Chemists' Aerated and Mineral Waters Association is a pleasant and agreeable medicated tonic, and may be judiciously taken at any period of life."

MANUFACTURED BY

THE CHEMISTS' AERATED & MINERAL WATERS ASSOCIATION
LIMITED.

LONDON (45, GIFFORD STREET, N.) AND HARROGATE.

Champagne, quarts, 3s. 6d. per dozen; pints, 5s. 6d.

THE

CONSOLIDATED TELEPHONE CONSTRUCTION and MAINTENANCE COMPANY, Limited.

(Incorporated under the Companies' Acts.)

Licensed to manufacture under the Patents of the United Telephone Company, Limited.

CAPITAL, £300,000, IN 300,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

OF WHICH THE FIRST ISSUE WILL BE

£200,000 IN 200,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

Forty-five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty-five Shares will be issued to the Vendors, as described below.

The Balance of 154.165 Shares are now offered for subscription,

Payable 2s. on Application, 3s. on Allotment, 5s. on the 1st June, 5s. on the 1st July, and 5s. on the 1st August.

Applications will be received on Monday, the 11th April, at 10 o'clock in the morning, and the Lists will close on or before Wednesday, the 13th April, at three o'clock.

Directors.

SIR JULIUS FOGEL, K.C.M.G., CHAIRMAN, Director of the Oriental Telephone Company, Limited.
COLONEL GOURAUD, VICE-CHAIRMAN, Director of the United Telephone Co., Limited.
SIR ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG, K.C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., &c. &c., late Director-General R.N.
PROFESSOR ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL.
J. P. BIGELOW, ESQ., late Fiscal Agent of the United States Treasury.
P. CARNEGY, ESQ., C.I.E., late Land Commissioner, Oude.
SIR W. DRAKE, K.C.B., Director of the Standard Bank of British South Africa, Limited.
THOMAS ALVA EDISON, ESQ.
*FREDERIC ALLEN GOWEN, ESQ., Chairman of the Gower-Bell Telephone Company, Limited.
JOSEPH B. MORGAN, ESQ., Managing Director of the United Telephone Company, and a Director of the Lancashire Telephone Company.
JAMES MERRILL ORMES, ESQ., late General Manager of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company.

* Will join the Board after the completion of the purchase.

Bankers.

THE NATIONAL PROVICIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, 112, Bishopgate-street, E.C., and Branches.
MESSRS. SMITH, PAYNE, AND SMITHS, 1, Lombard-street, E.C.
THE ALLIANCE BANK, LIMITED, Bartholomew-lane, E.C.

Solicitors.—MESSRS. JOHN MACKRELL AND CO., 21, Cannon-street, E.C.

Brokers.—MESSRS. ARTHUR ANDERSON AND CO., 30, Throgmorton-street, E.C. | **Auditors**—MESSRS. DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS, AND CO., 4, Lothbury, E.C.

Secretary (*pro. tem.*).—CHARLES CURTOYS, ESQ.

London Offices.—6, LOMBARD-STREET, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

THE development of the Telephone in the United Kingdom has hitherto been greatly retarded, owing to two causes: one, the rivalry and litigation which have been constantly proceeding between companies and individuals representing various interests, the other the difficulty of obtaining supplies of good instruments.

Ample evidence has lately been afforded that the United Telephone Company and the Gower-Bell interest were not working in harmony. An arrangement has now been made to combine these interests, and the present Company is formed for the purpose of carrying it out. The proposed British Gower-Bell Telephone Company, Limited, is abandoned, and the Consolidated Company, whilst acting as the medium of combining all interests, will meet that other want, above referred to, of supplying good instruments. It will construct and maintain Telephones and Telephonic apparatus under circumstances which will, for a considerable period, practically secure for it the almost exclusive right to manufacture Telephones in this country for home use and for export, together with exceptionally advantageous opportunities of supplying these instruments to a large portion of the civilised world.

To make these circumstances clear, a short explanation is needed. After protracted negotiations, the United Telephone Company, Limited, was formed to combine, in this country, the Bell and Edison interests, which were then subject to complicated litigation, but the Gower interest was not absorbed. Under rights, derived originally from the Bell Company, and additions patented by himself, Mr. Gower and his associates (hereinafter referred to as Mr. Gower) are carrying on a large business in the way of supplying Telephones. The Consolidated Company, having secured all Mr. Gower's rights, at home and abroad, excepting for North America, France, and the countries served by the Oriental Telephone Company, Limited, has made an arrangement with the United Telephone Company, Limited, under which it secures the exclusive right to manufacture Telephones in this country, for home use and export, under any of the principles patented by Professor Bell, Mr. Edison, or Mr. Gower. Inasmuch as these principles are of essential importance to any description of Telephone at present devised, the Company will secure almost, if not quite, undisturbed possession of the field of manufacture. In the course of years when patents run out and agreements lapse, the Company will have acquired an experience and influence which must leave it still in command of the business.

In short, the present arrangement brings into harmonious co-operation all the interests in this country, and the major portion of the interests abroad. It only remains under this head to add that the Telephone is in the very infancy of its adoption; it will be required by tens of thousands, and a Company starting with the connection this Company possesses, has before it the certainty of a most extensive manufacturing business.

The exclusive contract with the United Telephone Company is for a term of twenty years, with power for that Company to terminate it the end of the seventh or twelve year, or thereafter, on the conditions specified in the contract; but the Directors think it improbable such power is likely to be exercised, as the arrangements between the companies are so framed as to closely consult their mutual interests.

The United Company agrees to obtain from the Consolidated Company all the Telephones it requires at a specified rate of profit, the Consolidated Company leaving the supply of Telephones in the United Kingdom, as regards all new business, to the United Company, but retaining in its own hands Mr. Gower's existing contracts, the profits on which may be safely estimated to be alone sufficient to pay a good dividend on the Capital of this Company for a considerable period. The United Company cedes to this Company the whole of the export business, and grants to it (free from royalty) an exclusive licence to manufacture and sell Telephones in this country for export.

A considerable revenue is anticipated from contracts to erect and maintain Telephone Wires, and also from the sale of the various supplies necessary to the establishment and maintenance of Telephonic communication.

The rights owned by Mr. Gower in the countries served by the Oriental Telephone Company, Limited, are to be made over to that Company direct; but this Company will be in a position to supply the Oriental with the Telephones it requires, and there is is no doubt will contract to do so. Similarly, contracts are being negotiated between the Consolidated Company and the representatives of Companies which are being formed to distribute Telephones through a great part of Europe and S uth America.

It is intended to have a manufactory established here, fitted up with the most improved machinery, and to secure skilled workmen, so as to ensure the turning out of the best Telephones which can be made, and to keep pace with all improvements.

Mr. Gower and his associates, including the Gower-Bell Telephone Company, Limited, are to be paid £137,500, of which one-third will be paid in Shares, and two-thirds in cash. Considering the going business obtained for this sum, and the fusion of interests it secures, the Directors have no hesitation in pronouncing the purchase an advantageous one.

The deposit paid on application will be returned in full to those applicants to whom no allotment is made.

There is no promotion money.

The following contracts have been entered into with Charles Curtoys as a Trustee on behalf of the Company, both dated 8th April, 1881:

1. Agreement with F. A. Gower.
2. Agreement with the United Telephone Company, Limited.

The above-mentioned agreements, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be inspected at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

There are also current Contracts between the Gower-Bell Telephone Company and their customers as well as with manufacturers and *employés* of that Company, which will be taken over by this Company, the particulars of which, in the interests of this Company, are not made public.

A copy of the Memorandum of Association is annexed.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares may be had at the offices of the Company, and at the Bankers and Brokers.

London, 8th April, 1881.

London: Printed and Published for the Proprietors by CHARLES DICKENS AND EVANS, 24, Great New-street, Fetter-lane.—Monday April 11, 1881.